

REMARKS AND RESPONSES

No claims have been amended or cancelled. Claims 3-4 have been allowed. As a result, claims 1-4 remain pending in the present application. Reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and following comments is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. §102

The Office Action rejected claims 1-2 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hirose et al (U.S. 6,104,002). Of the rejected claims, only claim 1 is independent.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

"A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). "The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim." *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). (MPEP §2131)

With reference to Hirose, the support pins 30 are supported by holding member 31 (Figs. 3 -5). Each of the support pins 30 has 3 portions: leg portion 30a, pin body 30b, and auxiliary portion 30c (Fig. 5). The support pins 30 penetrate the holes 28 of the support plate 22 to support substrate G on the support plate 22 (Fig. 3). The support pins 30 are pulled down by the

support member 32, which has a circular opening on its top, on support plate 31 (Fig. 4). The diameter of the circular opening of the support member 32 is smaller than the diameter of the leg portion 30a of the support pin 30.

However, in claim 1 of this application, each hole of the board, which is used to pull down the support pins, has a slit extending therefrom. The diameter of the hole is larger than the bases of the support pins, and the width of the slits is between the diameters of the bases and the support pins.

Hence, Hirose does not disclose each and every element defined in the claim 1 of the present application. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 is allowable over the art of record and respectfully requests the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection of claim 1 to be reconsidered and withdrawn. In addition, insofar claim 2 depend from independent claim 1 and add further limitations thereto, the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection of these claims should be withdrawn as well.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-2 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Yoshizawa (U.S. 7,014,415). Of the rejected claims, only claim 1 is independent.

The Office Action only states that Yoshizawa discloses an elevator 33 and a board trays 10, and ask the applicants to see the hles and slits in Figs 1 and 2. However, in Figs 1 and 2 of Yoshizawa, the holes 11a is square having no slits extending therefrom (column 6, line 19). Therefore, Yoshizawa also does not disclose the same hole structure, which has a slit extending therefrom, defined in claim 1 of the present application.

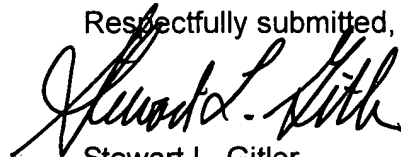
Hence, Yoshizawa does not disclose each and every element defined in the claim 1 of the present application. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully

submits that independent claim 1 is allowable over the art of record and respectfully requests the 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejection of claim 1 to be reconsidered and withdrawn. In addition, insofar claim 2 depend from independent claim 1 and add further limitations thereto, the 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejection of these claims should be withdrawn as well.

Conclusions

For all of the above reasons, applicants submit that the specification and claims are now in proper form, and that the claims define patentably over prior arts. Therefore applicants respectfully request issuance for this case at the Office Action's earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stewart L. Gitler", is written over the typed name.

Stewart L. Gitler

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